

# Project Background and Proposal



Boating on the Cascade Reservoir in Idaho.

## Background

Lake Cascade became a state park through an agreement with Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in 1994. Although Reclamation owns most of the land surrounding the reservoir, IDPR manages all of Reclamation's public recreation areas at Lake Cascade.

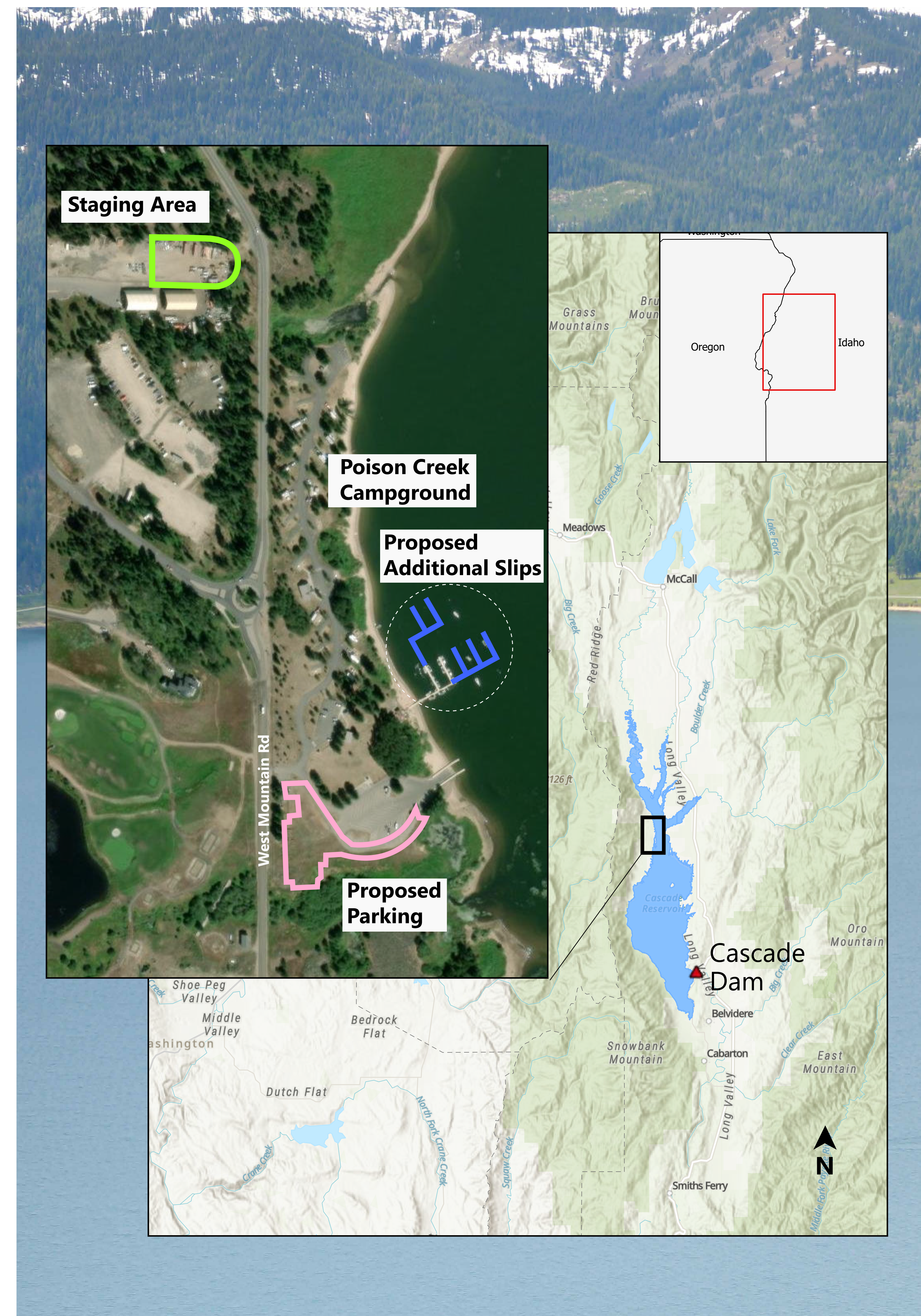
Lake Cascade does not have any permanent marina services currently and growing support has occurred over the last few decades from the recreating public, surrounding community and IDPR itself. Tamarack Resort's proposal was approved by IDPR, and an agreement was established between the two entities and Reclamation in 2023. A 20-year agreement between IDPR and Tamarack is contingent upon Reclamation's review and approval.

## Proposed Action

IDPR is requesting to proceed with Tamarack Resort's proposal to develop a public marina and recreation area on land owned by Reclamation consisting of up to 200 seasonal boat slips for the public at Poison Creek Campground area. The marina would also include the following facilities and improvements:

- Above ground tank and containment structure.
- 1,000 square foot rental and retail facility
- Expanded public parking area at a ratio of 1.5 parking stalls per boat slip
- Enhanced recreation area for the public on the beach and upland areas.

The boat slips have been engineered to be removed from the water at the end of the season (Labor Day time frame) as the reservoir reaches low water. The slips are anchored in place using helical anchors that will be permanently in place while the marina sections will be removed and replaced seasonally.





Bald Eagle

## Conservation Open Space is adjacent to the proposed Poison Creek Marina Project and across West Mountain Road

The 2004 Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan states that COS areas are intended to:

- Retain undeveloped landscapes for open natural, rural, visual setting.
- Maintain a buffer between public recreation, adjacent private development, and passive activities within Wildlife Management Areas.
- Conserve vegetation, wildlife, soils, and water quality values by implementing habitat restoration, erosion control, and revegetation of disturbed areas as needed.
- Provide a place for passive low intensity activities such as hiking, wildlife viewing or nature study, fishing, picnicking, and swimming

## Lake Cascade Fisheries

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game manages the fish and wildlife resources in the State of Idaho and fishing at Cascade Reservoir is managed out of the IDFG McCall Office. Cascade Reservoir supports popular recreational fishing opportunities throughout the year and recent surveys indicate harvest remains within the historical range. General fishing regulations apply, there are no special fishing regulations for the reservoir, check the fishing regulations for details.



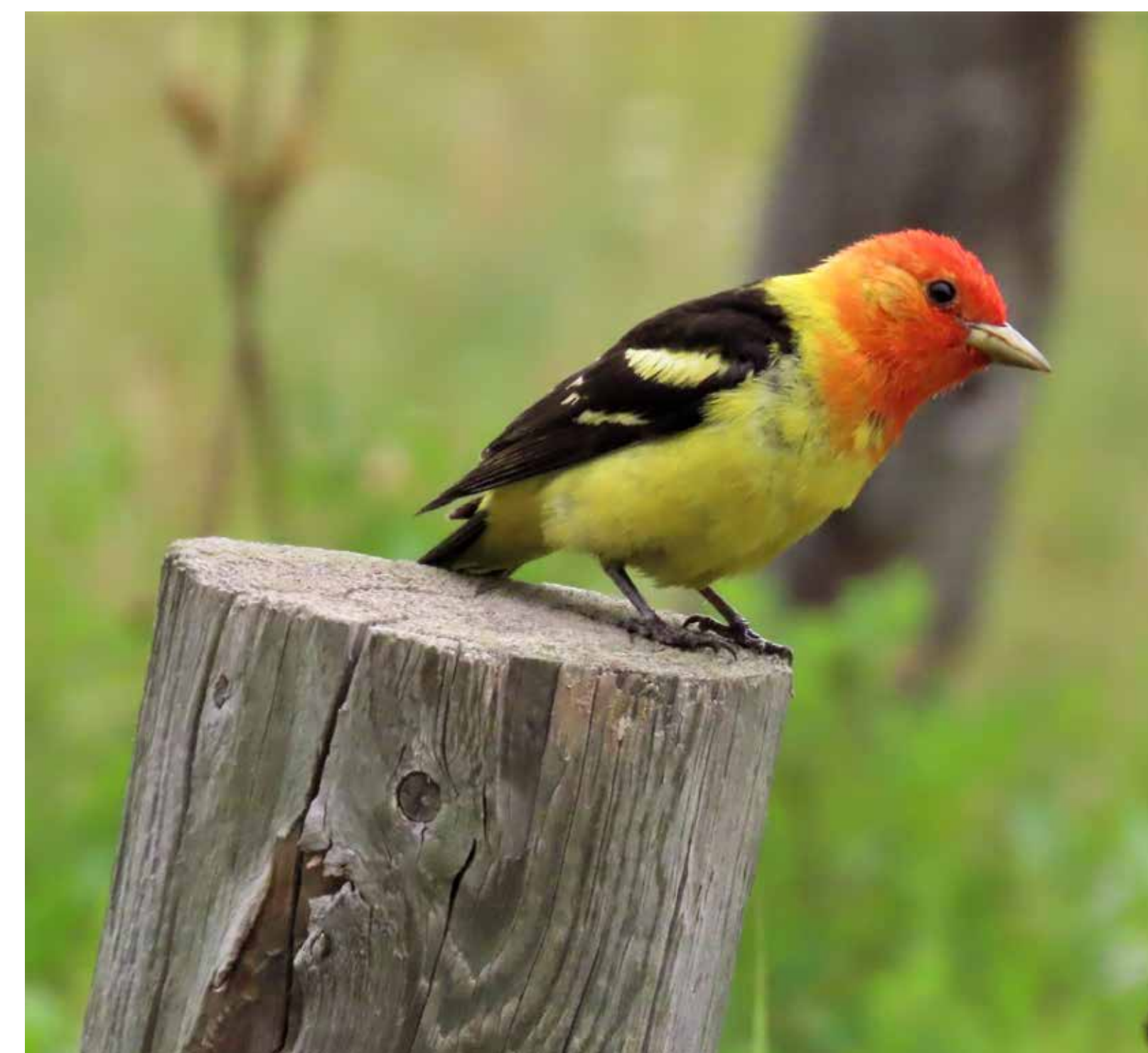
For more information, contact the IDFG (208) 634-8137 or go to <https://idfg.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner>.



Columbian Ground Squirrel



Blue Copper Butterfly



Western Tanager



Sandhill Crane



Western Grebe

## Brief Cultural History of Lake Cascade Area



Obsidian projectile point (arrowhead).

Evidence of a Native American presence dates back more than 10,000 years, with continued use (including hunting, food gathering, and habitation) even after the arrival of Euro-American

groups. Fur trapping, gold prospecting, livestock grazing, and logging brought non-Native settlers into Long Valley. Various communities grew up along the railroad after 1882 and agriculture became an industry in the area.

In the late 1940s, the Bureau of Reclamation completed construction of the Cascade Dam and Reservoir, which greatly altered the physical landscape of Long Valley and had a significant impact on the local economy. The reservoir inundated several thousands of acres of the most valuable agricultural lands in the valley but brought major new sources of income through recreation and tourism.



Barrel-roofed barn constructed in the 1940s

## Modern-day Tribal interests in the Cascade area

Lake Cascade is located on lands important to the Nez Perce Tribe and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. This area was a significant part of past life-ways and continues to be visited for tribal hunting, fishing, gathering, and ceremonial purposes.

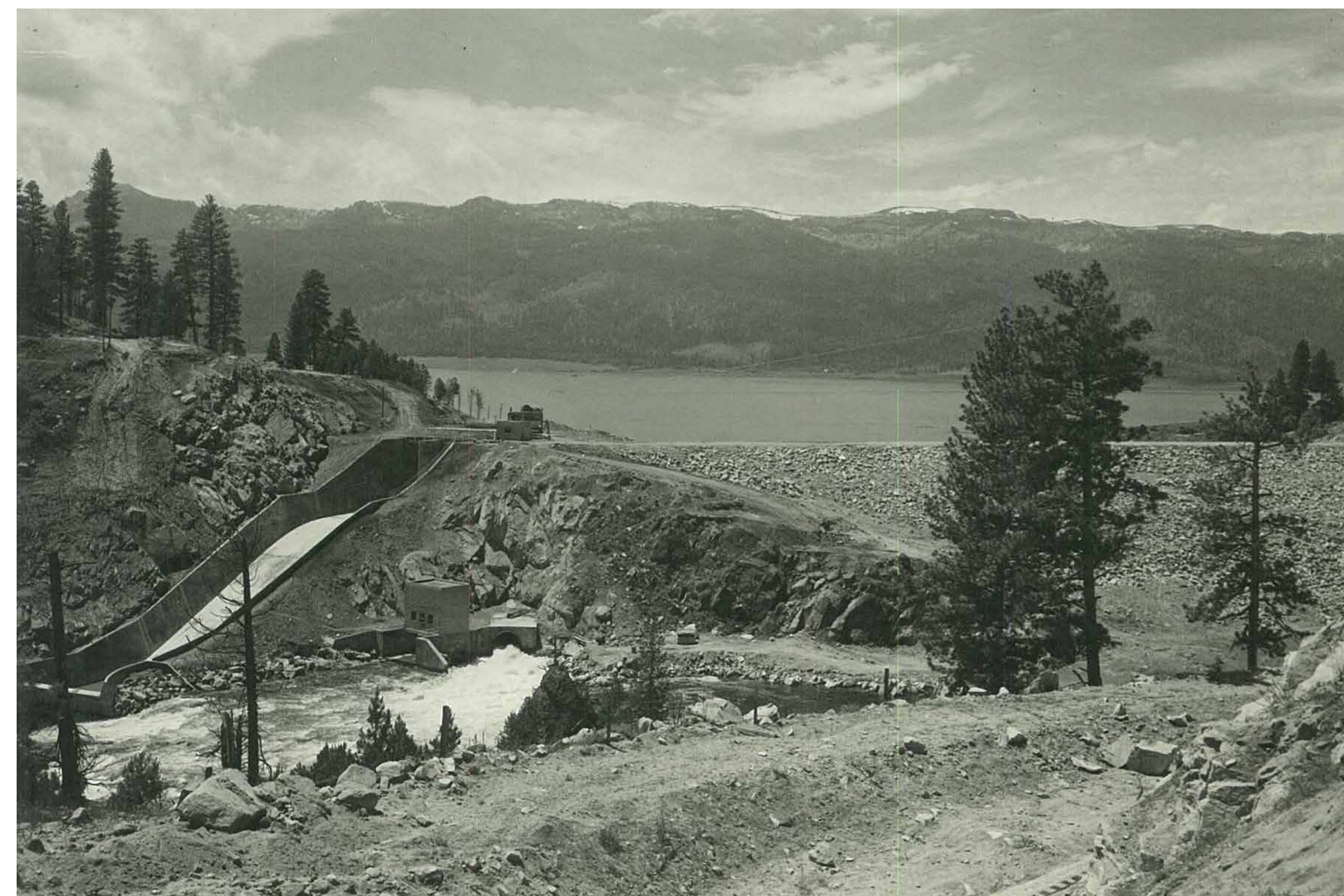
## How the public can help protect cultural resources at Lake Cascade



Because of the area's rich cultural history, any kind of ground disturbance on Reclamation lands must be permitted. Archaeological sites and other cultural resources could be

damaged by unauthorized digging, violating the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). In addition, metal detectors are not allowed to be used on Reclamation lands per the agency's policies (43 CFR Part 423.29(f)).

If you find artifacts on the shore, please leave them there! All artifacts can contribute to the story of Lake Cascade's past. Their context (where the item is found and what is around it) is extremely important. Besides, they are the property of the U.S. government. Instead, contact Reclamation personnel and report the find.

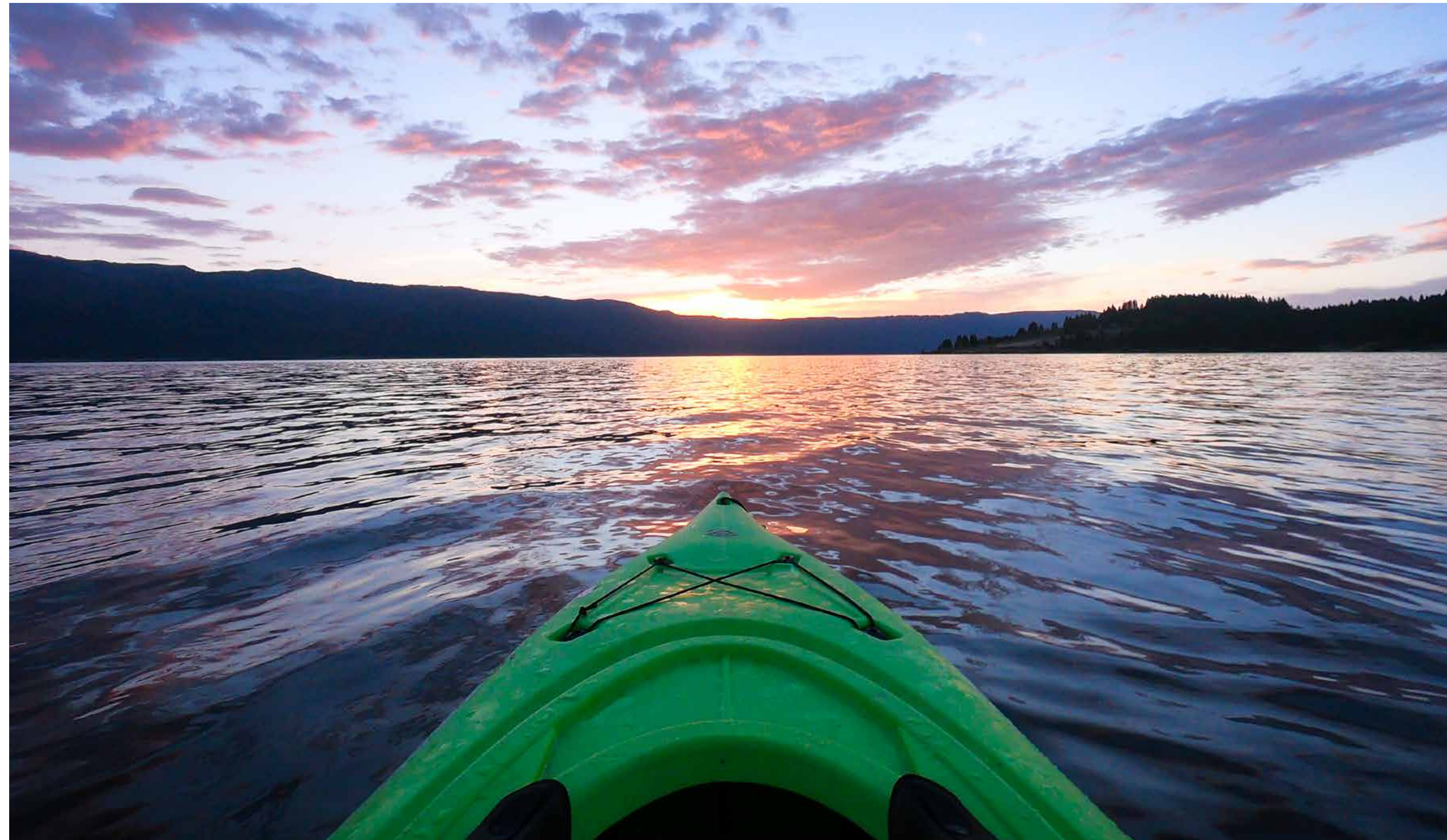


Cascade Dam showing portion of reservoir to the west of dam site. July 1948.



Cascade Dam Railroad Relocation. First train over new track. July 1947.

# Recreation at Lake Cascade



Kayaking on Cascade Reservoir at sunset.

The primary reason for a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop a marina at Lake Cascade State Park is due to the historical public input requesting marina services on Lake Cascade. Reclamation's 2002 Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan emphasized the need to develop amenities that maximize "overall public and resource benefits." IDPR hopes to provide a desired service for the recreationalists of Lake Cascade and Lake Cascade State Park, by seeking a willing and capable private partner.

Throughout winter months the park maintains and completes snow removal within the Poison Creek Day Use Area and Boat Ramp. This provides access for ice fishing anglers and other

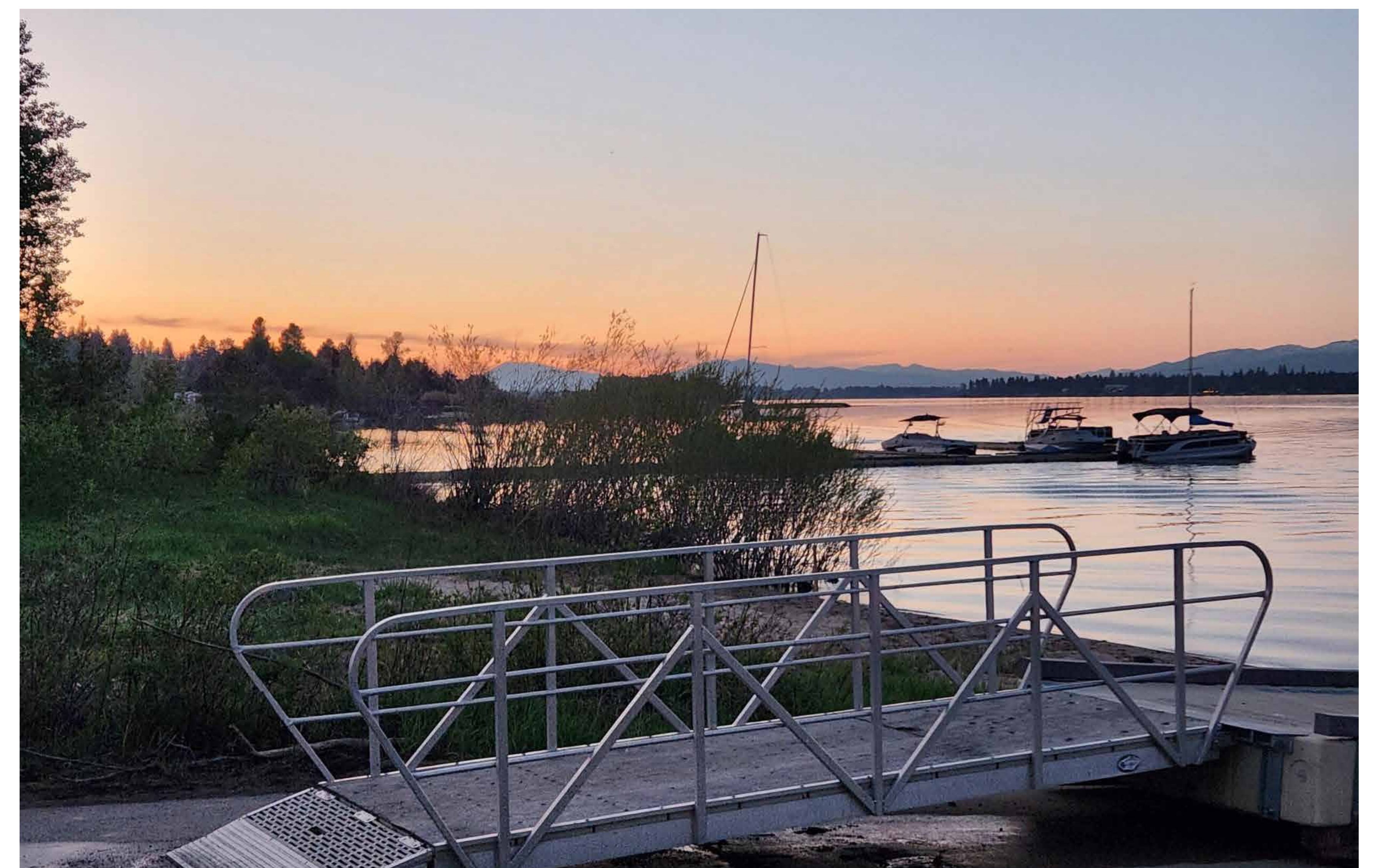
recreationalists (snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, snowmobiling) on Lake Cascade. This location is heavily utilized by a diverse group of recreationalists year-round for many recreational activities.

#### Current Recreational Locations:

- The Poison Creek Unit-Includes Poison Creek Day Use Area, Boat Ramp and Campground with full hook-up RV sites as well as a shower house facility
- West Mountain Campground- includes a dump station
- Buttercup Campground- includes a boat ramp
- Curlew Campground
- Huckleberry Campground
- Rainbow Point Campground
- Amanita Campground



Poison Creek Day Use Area.



Poison Creek Boat Ramp.